

diameter of the hollow element are regularly varied creating uniformly spaced swellings and narrowings running circularly on an outer surface and an inner surface of the hollow element and wherein between each two neighboring narrowings is formed a segment with a sinusoidal or a frusta-spherical or a frusta-conical or a barrel wall contour and wherein in the initial blocking position of the piston a sum of wall thickness of all segments of the hollow element and a length of the fastener guide is slightly larger than a sum of a length of the piston shank and a thickness of a fastener head.

REMARKS

Claims 1–20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 8 are being herewith amended. Amendment to all claims is provided to clarify the claims language and is based on the language of the claims as originally filed.

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) states the amendment filed on May 21, 2002 is considered non-compliant because it has not been submitted in the format required under 37 CFR 1.121, as amended on September 8, 2000. The Notice continues that the amendment does not include a clean version of the replacement paragraph(s)/section(s), a marked-up version of the replacement paragraph(s)/section(s) and a clean version of the amended claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the kind suggestions and are herewith attaching a clean version without markings, a version with markings to show changes made and a clean version of claims.

The presented amendment to the specification and the claims is believed not to present any new issues since the

specification and the claims are substantially based on previously presented specification and claims and since such limitations had been individually submitted earlier and had been considered earlier.

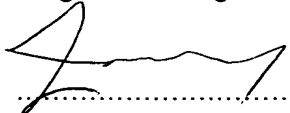
All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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